

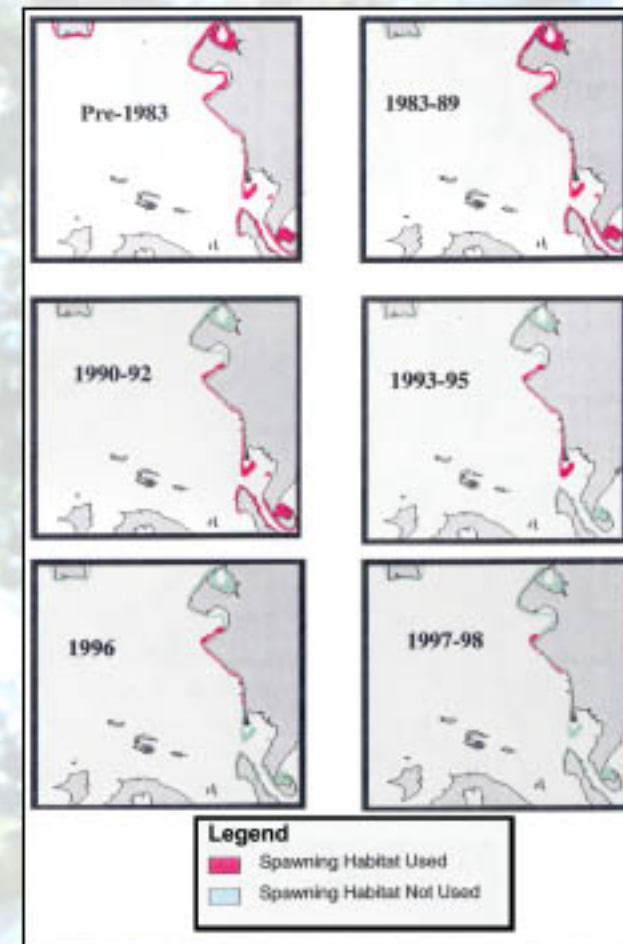
# Cherry Point Herring Stock



The Cherry Point herring stock is unique in Washington State because of its exceptionally late spawning timing – Mid-March through mid-June.

Additionally, adult fish tend to be slightly larger in this stock compared to other Puget Sound stocks.

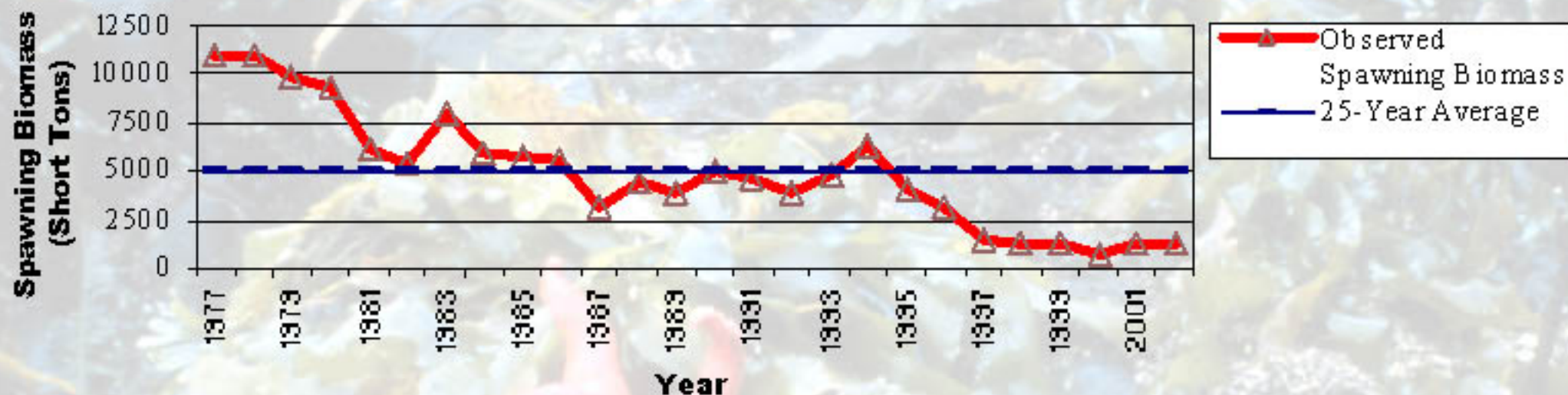
Fish here spawn on a number of different types of aquatic vegetation including eelgrass, red algae (*Gracilariopsis* and *Botryoglossum*), and brown algae (*Laminaria* and *Sargassum*).



As the population has declined, the area used for active spawning has decreased as well. Historical spawning records show the stock used much of the available aquatic vegetation. However, as the stock has declined the population appears to be concentrating spawning activity near Cherry Point and Point Whitehorn.

Declines in this stock remain an area of speculation. Similar declines have also been observed in Discovery Bay however, most Puget Sound populations are stable.

## Cherry Point Herring Spawning Biomass



The Cherry Point herring stock is historically the largest in the state with historic spawning biomass estimates of more than 11,000 tons. However, based on average spawn biomass for the last 5 years, the stock ranks fourth in the state.

Despite a recent stable trend, the stock status is now 'critical' meaning permanent damage to the stock is likely or has already occurred (i.e., recruitment failure).